

## Assignment 3: Binary Trees

A binary tree is a tree data structure in which each node has at most two children called the left child and the right child. Binary trees are the most basic data structures that are widely used in all kinds of algorithms. Therefore, computer science students should learn how to implement a binary tree correctly.

In this assignment, you will implement a binary tree to store a numerical expression that consists of integer constants, variables, and operators. We call this binary tree *an expression tree*. The internal nodes of an expression tree are operators, while the external nodes (i.e., leaf nodes) can be either integer constants or variables. For example, let consider the following expression:

$$S_1 = (((X + 1) * X / ((9 - 5) + 2)) - ((X * (7 - 4)) + Y))$$

The corresponding expression tree is shown in Figure 1.

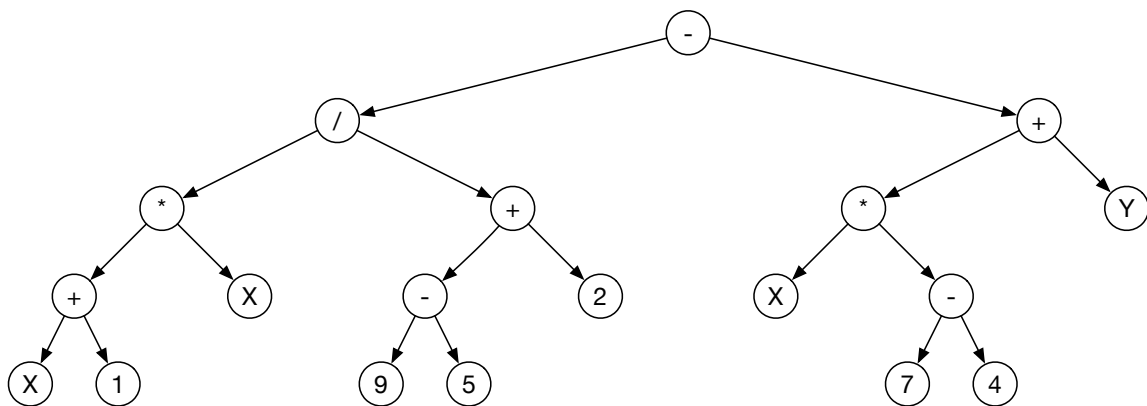


Figure 1: The expression tree of  $S_1$ .

In this expression, there are two variables: X and Y. Here a variable is any token that starts with an alphabet in either lower case or upper case. As you can see, all internal nodes are operators, and all external nodes are either integer constants (which can be negative integers) or variables. We consider four different kinds of operators only: +, -, \*, and /. All of these are integer operators.

The main objective of this exercise is for you to implement the class template `LinkedBinaryTree` as described in the textbook and use your implementation to perform the following tasks.

## Task 1: Parsing an expression in postfix notation

Your program will allow a user to enter an expression in *postfix* notation. For example, when your program wrote, “Please enter an expression terminated with ‘#’: ”, a user can enter the following expression in postfix notation that ended with a pound sign:

$$X\ 1 + X\ * \ 9\ 5 - 2 + / X\ 7\ 4 - * Y + - \#$$

We opt for postfix notation instead of the usual infix notation because it is easier to paste an expression in postfix notation; there is no need to consider the operator precedence and associativity, as well as there is no parenthesis. More importantly, it is easy to parse an expression in postfix notation to an expression tree—all your program need is to do is to maintain **a stack of expression trees**. The algorithm is similar to the evaluation function for postfix notation, which scans the expression from left to right until it hits a pound sign. When it encounters an operand during the scan (which can be either an integer constant or a variable), it also pushes the operand on the stack as a single-node expression tree. The key difference is that when it encounters an operator, it pops the top two expression trees in the stack and attaches them to the left and right children of a new expression tree whose root is the operator. If the expression is a correct expression, there should be exactly one expression tree left in the stack after scanning through the expression, and that is the expression tree of the expression. In our example, the expression tree your program generates should be the one in Figure 1.

In this exercise, you are allowed to use the stack class in the C++ Standard Template Library (STL) to implement this algorithm. Moreover, whenever your program found that the expression is incorrect, your program should

```
throw runtime_error("Invalid expression.")
```

where `runtime_error` is an exception defined in the `stdexcept.h` header file in the C++ Standard Library.

## Task 2: Variable substitution

After parsing a tree, your program will allow a user to substitute a constant for a variable. For example, if a user substitutes 3 for the variable  $X$  in  $S_1$ , the new expression is  $S_2 = (((3 + 1) * 3 / ((9 - 5) + 2)) - ((3 * (7 - 4)) + Y))$ , and the expression tree will become the expression tree in Figure 2.

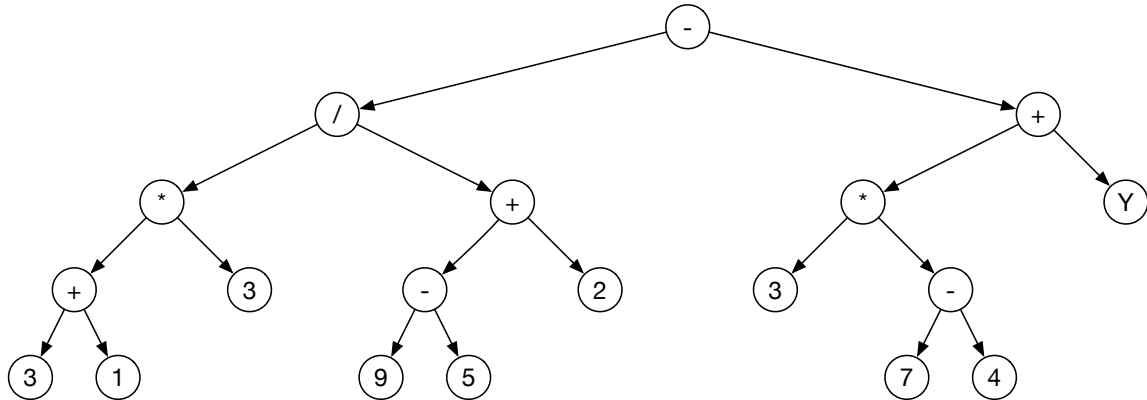


Figure 2: The expression tree of  $S_2$  obtained by substituting 3 for  $X$  in  $S_1$ .

## Task 3: Simplify the expression tree by evaluating subtrees with constants only.

In the expression tree in Figure 2, there are subtrees that contain constants only and have no variables in their leaf nodes. For example, the subtree starting at the left child of the root contains no variable but constants and operators only. It is clear that this subtree can be safely replaced with an integer constant 2, which is the result of the evaluation of  $((3 + 1) * 3 / ((9 - 5) + 2))$ . Likewise, we can replace the subtree of  $3 * (7 - 4)$  by 9. Then the expression tree will be simplified to the expression tree in Figure 3.

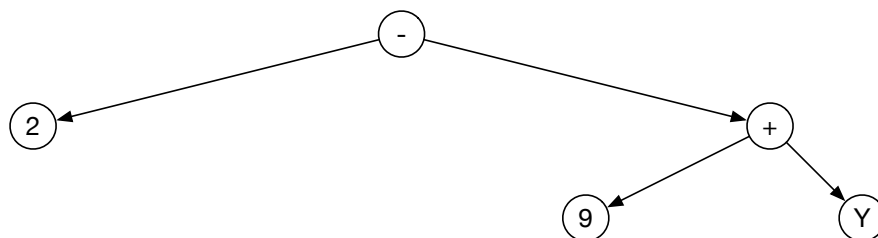


Figure 2: The expression tree of  $S_3$  obtained by simplifying  $S_2$ .

As can be seen, this simplified expression tree corresponds to the expression  $S_3 = 2 - (9 + Y)$ . More importantly, no more simplification is possible because there is no subtree whose external nodes are constants only. Your program should simplify the expression tree until no more simplification is possible.

Since the simplification process involves evaluations of subexpressions, your program should be able to handle errors during the evaluations, notably the division-by-zero error. When the right operand of  $/$  is zero, your program needs to

```
throw runtime_error("Divide by zero.")
```

One obvious way to perform this simplification is to evaluate nodes in a bottom-up fashion. However, we intentionally do not disclose our method and let you design your own algorithm.

## Implementing Linked Binary Trees

You will implement the Linked Binary Tree class template as described in Section 7.3.4 of our textbook. Most of time, your implementation should faithfully follow the description in the textbook. However, your implementation should provide better error handling and include four more member functions that help to implement the expression trees in the above tasks.

Notice that some codes in Section 7.3.4 of the textbook do not conform with the C++ standard. Moreover, there are some minor bugs in the codes. You cannot directly copy the codes in the textbook and expect they will work perfectly; you need to convert the codes to correct C++ codes that can be compiled using the gcc compiler on our submission server.

You will put your codes of Linked Binary Trees in a file named `LinkedBinaryTree.h`, which is left blank so that you have to implement everything yourself. First, you should choose to include a minimum set of header files that your program truly uses, as it is not a good practice to include unused header files. Second, since you are implementing a class template, your member functions cannot be put in a separated `.cpp` file and link it with other files later. In general, you should include the definition of the member

functions of a class template in the header file, preferably as inline functions in the template class definition. However, you can also put the non-inline member functions in the header files. For this reason, you need to include `#ifndef`, `#define`, and `#endif` directives at the beginning and the end of the header file so as to prevent cyclic file inclusion that will cause the same member functions to be defined multiple times. In this exercise, you should put both the class template of Linked Binary Trees and the definition of the member functions in `LinkBinaryTree.h`.

As described in the textbook, the class template `LinkBinaryTree` should have two inner class: `Node` and `Position`. `Node` is a structure that holds the data of a node in a binary tree, whereas `Position` is a pointer-like class that refers to a position in a tree. Note that a position object can be a “null” pointer, which refers to no position. As described in the textbook, The `Position` class should include these member functions: `operator*()`, `left()`, `right()`, `parent()`, `isRoot()`, and `isExternal()`. Moreover, we want you to include one more member function:

```
bool isNull() const;
```

which checks whether a position object refers to a non-existing position. The behavior of `isNull()` is somewhat similar to `end()` in an iterator in STL. Since we are not implementing a full-fledged iterator using the `Position` class, we will call this function `isNull` instead of `end()`.

The class template `LinkBinaryTree` should include all member functions as described in the textbook: `size()`, `empty()`, `root()`, `positions()`, `addRoot()`, `expandExternal()`, and `removeAboveExternal()`. However, the implementation of these functions in the textbook performs no error checking. For example, you cannot add a root to a tree when the tree is not empty, and you cannot expand an internal node. If you pass a “null” position to these member functions, most of them will fail. Therefore, in your implementation you are required to throw runtime errors with appropriate error messages in these cases as well as other problematic cases. We will check whether your program can throw exceptions whenever necessary.

The definition of `removeAboveExternal()` in Code Fragment 7.22 fails when the position `p` is the root. Please fix this bug and provide a correct implementation of `removeAboveExternal()`. In addition, we want you to implement four additional member functions:

- `int height() const;`

This function returns the height of the tree. Note that if the tree is empty, there is no height. You need to throw an exception if the tree is empty.

- `void attachLeftSubtree(const Position& p, LinkedBinaryTree& subtree);`

This function attaches another tree to the tree as the left subtree of a node at position `p`. Clearly, the left child of `p` should be empty; otherwise an exception should be thrown.

- `void attachRightSubtree(const Position& p, LinkedBinaryTree& subtree);`

This function attaches another tree to the tree as the right subtree of a node at position `p`. Clearly, the right child of `p` should be empty; otherwise an exception should be thrown.

- `void removeSubtree(const Position& p);`

Remove the subtree starting at position `p`. You have to free the memory allocated to the subtree.

You are free to include any number of private or protected member fields and functions in the class template `LinkedBinaryTree`. Please write your name, your student ID, and your email as a comment at the top of the file. You should also briefly describe your implementation at the top of the file.

## Implementing other functions in `assignment3.cpp`

We provide you the main function in `main.cpp`, which makes use of the functions defined in `assignment3.h` and `assignment3.cpp`. You are not allowed to modify the main function and `main.cpp` to bypass the calls to these functions and implement your own solution. To complete the program, you are required to implement the following functions in `assignment3.cpp`:

- `LinkedBinaryTree<Symbol>`  
`parsePostfixExpression(list<string> tokens);`

This function takes an expression in postfix notation and parse it into an expression tree. The expression is stored in a list of strings in which each string is a token. Please take a look how the list of tokens is read from `cin` in the main function. The function should return an expression tree of the expression. We recommend you to use

```
LinkedBinaryTree<Symbol>::attachLeftSubtree()
```

and

```
LinkedBinaryTree<Symbol>::attachRightSubtree()
```

to build the tree. Furthermore, the function should

```
throw runtime_error("Invalid expression.");
```

if the expression is not in a correct postfix notation (e.g., missing operands, dangling operators, etc.). Any invalid symbols in the expression is taken care by the `Symbol` class we provide (by throwing runtime exceptions), and you don't need to check the validity of the symbols.

- `void print_inorder(const LinkedBinaryTree<Symbol>& tree);`

This function prints the expression in infix notation to `cout`. The output should include all parentheses. Please take a look at the output of the sample program we provide to see what output this function should generate.

- `void print_postorder(const LinkedBinaryTree<Symbol>& tree);`

This function prints the expression in postfix notation to `cout`. The output should include no parenthesis. Please take a look at the output of the sample program we provide to see what output this function should generate.

- `int findMinimumDepth(const LinkedBinaryTree<Symbol>& tree, const Symbol& sym);`

This function returns the minimum depth of a variable `sym` in an expression tree. If the variable appears only once in the expression tree, this function returns the depth of the node storing the variable. If the variable appears more than once in the expression tree, this function returns the minimum value of the depths of the nodes storing the variable. If the variable does not appear in the expression tree, this function returns -1.

- `void substitute(const LinkedBinaryTree<Symbol>& tree, const Symbol& variable, const Symbol& constant);`

This function replaces all appearances of a given variable in an expression tree with a given constant. The replacement should be taken places in the original tree and there is no need to create a new tree.

- `void simplify_subtree(LinkedBinaryTree<Symbol>& tree);`

This function simplifies a subtree as described in the introduction of this handout. Basically, it finds all subtrees whose external nodes are all constants, evaluates the subtrees, and replaces them with the results of the evaluations. You should not create a new tree to store the simplified tree; instead, you should call

`LinkedBinaryTree<Symbol>::removeSubtree( )`

to remove the subtrees.

You should read `main.cpp` to see exactly how these functions are being used. `assignment3.cpp` has been partially filled out, and you need to implement the functions in this file. Notice that you are free to implement other helper functions in `assignment3.cpp` that are used by your functions. But you should not put the function prototypes of these helper functions in `assignment3.h`. In fact, you will not submit `assignment3.h` for grading. Please write your name, your student ID, and your email as a comment at the



top of the file. You should also briefly describe your implementation at the top of the file.

## Testing and Submission

We provide two files that implement the `Symbol` class: `Symbol.h` and `Symbol.cpp`. The implementation is pretty straightforward and self-explanatory. Please take a look at the source code to see how to use it.

We also provide you a sample program called “`exptree-sample`” that implements all functionalities of this program. Please play with the program to see how it behaves, and make sure that the output of your program is the same as the output of the sample program (except the white spaces).

In this exercise, you are allowed to use two data structures in the Standard Template Library: `stack` and `list`. However, you should not use other data structures in STL except the iterators of `stack` and `list` and some common exceptions such as `runtime_error`. If in doubt, please contact the instructor to ask whether a data structure in STL can be used.

We will test your implementation of Linked Binary Trees using a different main function that is different from the one in `main.cpp`. We will test the completeness and correctness of your implementation, including whether your code will throw all necessary exceptions. We will also check whether your program will cause memory leak.

To compile your program on our submission servers, use this command:

```
g++ -o exptree Symbol.cpp assignment3.cpp main.cpp
```

Before you submit your program, please check whether your program can be compiled correctly using this command on our submission server. We do not grade your program using other compilers.

Please also submit a plain text file to tell us the extent of your implementation, more specifically which parts have been implemented and which parts have not. Also, if there are some known bugs in your program, you should state them in the plain text file.

You will submit only three files: 1) `LinkedListBinaryTree.h`, 2) `assignment3.cpp`, and 3) the plain text file. These files should be self-contained and you cannot submit additional files. Please put these files in a zip file called `assign3.zip`, and submit it using the `dssubmit` script on our submission servers (`uni06~10.unist.ac.kr`). The submission command is

```
dssubmit assign3 assign3.zip
```

## **Bug Reports**

Please report any bugs in the codes we provide as well as any typos and errors in this handout to Prof. Tsz-Chiu Au at [chiu@unist.ac.kr](mailto:chiu@unist.ac.kr). We will look into the bug reports and fix the problems. If we have to release a new version of the codes to fix the bugs, we will announce it on our course webpage or Blackboard. Before you submit your program, you should check the announcement to see whether the codes have been updated. Please make sure that your program works with the final version of the codes we provide.